

MEETING AGENDA

Corvallis Parks & Recreation Department
1310 SW Avery Park Drive - Corvallis, OR 97333

Meeting Description: Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Advisory Board **Location:** Downtown Fire Station
Date: November 19, 2015 **Time:** 6:30 p.m. 400 NW Harrison Blvd

Members and Staff -			
1. Lynda Wolfenbarger, Chair	11. Greg Alpert		
2. Marc Vomocil, Vice Chair	12. Kevin Bogatin, 509-J District Liaison		
3. Richard Sumner	13. Joel Hirsch, Council Liaison		
4. Ralph Alig	14. Karen Emery, Director		
5. Anthony Stumbo	15. Jude Geist, Parks Operations Supervisor		
6. Tatiana Dierwechter	16. Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner		
7. Phillip Hays	17. Terry Nix, Recorder		
8. Simone Frei			
9. Janice Rosenberg			
10. Jon Soulé			
Items To Be Discussed			
1	Call to Order – Reminder to turn on microphones		
2	Introductions		
3	Approval of Minutes – October 15		
4	Visitors' Propositions		
5	Parks Volunteer Program- McGettigan		
6	Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Program- Jon Pywell, Urban Forester		
7	Sustainable Budget Task Force- Emery		
8	April Stools Day- Emery		
8	Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Grant - Rochefort		
9	Board Member Reports		
10	Staff reports		
11	Council Liaison Report		
Pending Items -		Action/Notes -	
1			
Materials Mailed -			
1	Agenda	5	April Stools Day flyer
2	Draft Minutes – October 15	6	P&R Sustainable Budget document
3	Director's Highlights	7	GT article – Veterans banner at Senior Center
4	Ralph Alig email from Oct. 15 meeting	8	Letter from PreservationWORKS to LBCC Board

Next PNARB Meeting is December 17, 2015

DRAFT
CITY OF CORVALLIS
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
October 15, 2015

Present

Lynda Wolfenbarger, Chair
Ralph Alig
Tatiana Dierwechter
Phillip Hays
Janice Rosenberg
Jon Soule
Anthony Stumbo
Richard Sumner

Absent/Excused

Greg Alpert
Simone Frei
Marc Vomocil

Staff

Karen Emery, Director
Jude Geist, Parks Operations Supervisor
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
Dan Hendrickson, Corvallis PD
Trevor Anderson, Corvallis PD
Terry Nix, Recorder

Guests

Stewart Wershow
Dave Eckert
Paul Farrell
Audrey Hatch
John Gabriel

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION.

	Agenda Item	Summary of Recommendations
III.	Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2015	Approved as presented.
IV.	Visitor' Propositions	Motion passed that, in response to community comments regarding the sale of Washington Park, PNARB strongly supports Res. 94-13 that no park shall be sold.
V.	Illegal Camping	
VI.	Bald Hill Carbon Action Plan	
VII.	Municipal Code 50.01 – Alcohol in Parks	Motion passed to recommend that the distinction between designated and non-designated parks be removed from the alcohol permitting ordinance. Motion passed to recommend continuing the policy of not requiring liability insurance for rentals where alcohol is being consumed but not sold, and to recommend that the rental contract be amended to highlight the waiver and strongly recommend that renters purchase liability insurance.
VIII.	Betty Griffiths Memorial Bench	

IX.	Board Member Reports	
X.	Staff Reports	
XI.	Council Liaison Report	

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lynda Wolfenbarger called the meeting of the Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Corvallis Downtown Fire Station Meeting Room, 400 NW Harrison Blvd.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 16, 2015

Phillip Hays moved to approve the July 16 minutes as presented. Anthony Stumbo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS

Stewart Wershow, President of Garfield Park Neighborhood Association, apologized for not attending the July meeting as he could have told the Board at that time that neighbors have been negatively impacted by the bike polo group and would probably not look kindly on having bicycle polo setups at the Linus Pauling tennis courts.

Dave Eckert said there have been numerous attempts in the City's history at park takings including Shawala Point where the City and a hotel operator attempted to put a hotel, the natural area across the river from downtown that Public Works was interested in using as part of a wastewater facility, and Washington Park where it was proposed to use part of the park for the Benton Center expansion. When these projects were brought out to the public, there were firestorms and they never happened. Now to the present, LBCC gave a presentation in a closed session to a leadership team consisting of the Mayor, Council President, Council Vice President, and City Manager, which included additional discussion about the use of Washington Park in relation to the Benton Center expansion. Eckert cited City Council Res. 94-13, which states that City Parks shall not be sold and which mentions specific parks including Washington Park. He said the process of selling parkland runs counter to existing government policy and any potential sale of Washington Park should not be discussed, period. Also in City resolution, park functions are described and they do not include activities that fulfill the legal obligations of an outside entity. Regarding the issue of closed government meetings, he doesn't think it's appropriate for two Councilors and the Mayor to hear a proposal about a park in a closed session, and he hopes that someone will look into that. He said many of our parks are in water hazard and high liquefaction areas which should also be considered, even if we were to change the policies. He feels that LBCC pulled a "bait and switch" by saying they wouldn't ask for the use of the park, getting their referendum passed, and then coming back with a proposal to use parkland for parking.

Paul Farrell said he lives three houses from the Benton Center. Two years ago when LBCC discussed putting parking in the area of Washington Park, he was opposed. Since then, however, the citizens passed a bond to enlarge the Benton Center in a way that will need 200 parking spaces while

that property will hold 80 spaces at most, leaving 120 cars with no place to park. This is a growing problem all over Corvallis – building without providing adequate infrastructure. While he is opposed in general to the idea of building on parks, in this situation, something has to give.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Farrell said there was a neighborhood meeting with the LBCC Bond Manager to discuss options. There were about 14 or 15 neighbors in attendance. The only options presented were to put parking in Washington Park or to reduce the number of parking spaces to 80 for a building design that requires 200, and one can imagine the impact of the latter on the surrounding neighborhood.

Audrey Hatch asked that the City keep Washington Park as parkland even as the Benton Center searches for options to expand appropriately onsite. It is her personal view that our open spaces and natural areas have intrinsic value within the community and to our ecology. Speaking as a member of the advisory committee to the Benton Center expansion project, she has seen that our community has larger parking issues, that there is a benefit to the Benton Center expanding at its current site, and that there is value to the working relationship with LBCC. As a neighbor, she feels we are hearing the same options heard a year ago and it is her opinion that to proceed further we need multiple viable, realistic options that really look at traffic flow, egress, and parking long-term. She has not yet seen a plan that seems viable and she thinks that multiple options should be considered before going back to square one.

Jon Soule asked the expansion plans have been finalized. Hatch said she doesn't believe they have been finalized but options have been drafted. Soule asked if a parking structure was considered. Hatch said she believes they negated the idea of having a multiple story parking structure. Soule said this was a known issue and he is curious as to why a realistic solution wasn't found before this went forward on the ballot.

In response to inquiries from the Board, Director Karen Emery noted that the Board previously passed a motion advising the City Council to not sell parkland, specifically Washington Park.

Hays said Corvallis has a Comprehensive Plan that calls for having neighborhood parks within walking distance of homes, which is difficult in older areas like this. His question to the City Council is, if they are going to sell or reduce Washington Park, where do they propose to create a park in that neighborhood where there is no land available? He said the City Council has been ignoring the Park Board and that irritates him. Citizen advisory boards are made up of people knowledgeable about specific areas of City operations and they are supposed to advise the City Council. He cited City Council Resolution 94-13 which states that City parkland cannot be sold.

Motion: Hays moved that PNARB ask the City Council to reaffirm Corvallis City Council Res. 94-13. Specifically, the City Council is asked to reaffirm that City parkland and natural areas cannot be sold. Soule seconded the motion.

Richard Sumner said that by asking the City Council to reaffirm the resolution, the discussion could go any number of ways. He likes the resolution and he is hesitant to reopen it. He noted there is no actual proposal to respond to and he is concerned about responding formally to hearsay. He wondered if there was another way of communicating the concern to the City Council.

Brief discussion followed regarding previous discussion and action on the issue, the message the Board wishes to communicate, and potential motion language.

Hays withdrew the motion on the table.

Motion: Hays moved that in response to community comments regarding the sale of Washington Park, PNARB strongly supports Res. 94-13 that no park shall be sold. Sumner seconded the motion and it passed 6-1, with Stumbo voting no.

V. ILLEGAL CAMPING – CAPTAIN HENDRICKSON

Captain Dan Hendrickson introduced Officer Trevor Anderson, one of three Community Livability Officers (CLO) who worked on a Tactical Action Plan (TAP) that began on August 1 and ended on October 1 in response to citizen complaints, officers' observations, and observations from City staff regarding criminal behavior in City parks and the downtown area. Parks included in the TAP were Shawala Point, Central Park, the Skate Park, Pioneer Park, Riverfront Park and the BMX Track. State laws and city ordinances violated include illegal camping, harassment, assault, littering, drug use, open containers of alcohol, smoking, human waste, criminal mischief, and aggressive panhandling.

Anderson said the three CLO are tasked with addressing chronic criminal behavior that directly impacts community livability. They act as liaisons with community groups, business associations and community members in different sections of the City to look for creative long term solutions for chronic issues. He reviewed tasks and objectives contained within the subject TAP and ways in which they were addressed. In an effort to increased police presence within Downtown Corvallis and riverfront parks, patrol staff devoted 96 hours of unobligated time to these areas and the CLO utilized bike patrols and foot patrols to increase contact between police and community members for an additional 94 hours of patrol time for the period. To address the objective of obtaining compliance with city and state laws through educational contact, officers gave 225 warnings for criminal behavior, providing education on behavior expectations and consequences for criminal behavior and documented those appropriately. Officers then utilized progressive levels of enforcement for repeat offenders where warnings did not work. Officers cited 47 individuals and arrested 17 individuals for various issues. As part of the TAP, the officers also met with 33 local businesses, created a crime prevention educational presentation, and completed seven presentations to community groups. All of the tasks and goals of the TAP were accomplished and he thinks there has been a tremendous impact on the area with a large decrease in criminal activity and an increase in citizens using the area.

Sumner asked if the people contacted during the TAP were more local people or people from outside the area. Anderson said he doesn't have hard numbers but from his experience, he feels there is an uptick in people coming in from outside Corvallis, and many of those were educational contacts with people who weren't aware of local ordinances. There is also an aspect of chronic offenders; the TAP gave the ability to trespass chronic offenders from City parks for a period of time and this proved to be an incredible tool in keeping them from reoffending.

Janice Rosenberg asked if the trespassed repeat offenders left the community or moved to other areas of town. Anderson said he thinks it is some of both of those things. The CLO are continuing to problem solve with downtown businesses outside of the TAP area about issues they are having.

Ralph Alig asked if consideration is given to what other communities are doing to address these issues. Anderson said absolutely, these problems are not unique to Corvallis and he strongly believes

in not reinventing the wheel. He is certified in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), and much of that involves reaching out to other communities to see what success they have had. He will be attending a national conference in Portland next week that focuses on agencies coming together to discuss where they have found successes.

Tatiana Dierwechter said she was involved in the process which created funding for the CLO program and she thinks that came out of the community's passion and commitment around prevention and outreach and innovation in solving problems. She is encouraged that the Corvallis Police Department seems to be partnering with efforts in our community that are looking for strategies to reduce homelessness based on practices that are happening all around the country. She is concerned about law enforcement intervention that criminalizes homelessness. She wants to go on record that enforcement and livability in our parks is critical but it's an expensive short-term solution if we aren't also looking at long-term strategies to address homelessness in our community.

Hendrickson said that many of the chronic offenders in parks are not homeless. He said he is a standing member one of the teams of the Homeless Oversight Committee and the department is integrated and involved with all the support agencies in taking a comprehensive look at these issues.

Sumner asked if there is a role for citizen volunteers where it's more a matter of presence. Anderson said the officers have been in touch with Parks and Recreation staff about the potential of developing a citizen volunteer program similar to those that have been used successfully in other communities. Parks Operations Supervisor Jude Geist noted that the volunteer coordinator does not have additional capacity and that staffing level is one issue that would need to be considered. Sumner suggested that "how to grow a volunteer program" could be added to the Board's goals.

Hays asked how much the Parks Department spends cleaning up parks. Geist said he doesn't have that number but he can report about clean-up efforts in the last two weeks. At Berg Park, activities to clean up illegal camp sites took 57 staff hours, during which they found 16 stripped bike frames, 15 propane tanks, and 7,400 pounds of debris. At Orleans Park, staff cleaned up 24 camp sites and 6,500 pounds of debris utilizing 87 staff hours. Emery noted that the department doesn't budget for cleaning illegal camps and this work requires that other staff work be deferred.

Hays said that, ideally, the CLO effort will reduce the clean up expense, allowing that money to be used in other ways.

Dierwechter said it's crucial to recognize that this is a bigger issue which these short term expensive solutions will not solve it in the long term. She encouraged partnering across sectors to look at issues like affordable housing and mental health using a more comprehensive approach.

Stumbo said he appreciates the work of the CLO Team and would like to see it continue.

VI. BALD HILL CARBON ACTION PLAN

John Gabriel reported on the activities of a small resident group called Trees Eat Carbon (TEC). He said a tree can absorb as much 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and can sequester one ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 50 years old. It is estimated that the global number of trees has fallen by 46% since the start of human civilization, with an estimated 3.4 trillion trees being cut down. The idea behind TEC is to benefit Corvallis parks by enhancing them with trees and the habitats they provide. The team used a process to identify public lands and land that isn't loved (the

water treatment plant, Orleans Natural Area, the old south town campground), with the idea to enhance those areas by planting trees for carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat. He showed a map of publically owned lands, noting areas where trees could be planted. The team selected Bald Hill as the area they would like to adopt as the first target for these improvements. They would like to get out there this winter with the City's approval to map where the stream naturally occurs, do some plantings along the edge of the riparian zone to provide a natural coordinator for beaver, otter, etc., and return the farm area to a more natural space.

TEC member Dave Eckert added that the City has essentially adopted maps that approved this as a riparian zone to be protected and yet it is rented out to be tilled and, he assumes, sprayed with harsh herbicides. The plan doesn't seem to match City policy. Geist clarified that the agriculture use agreement is a temporary management strategy that allows for the City to receive some income from the property until it can be restored.

Emery said it is staff's preference to move forward with a management plan for the area of Bald Hill under easement with Greenbelt Land Trust this Winter. It is preferred to complete that before beginning a restoration project of that scope and size. Staff is working with Benton County and the Greenbelt Land Trust on a regional plan because they share property borders.

Alig asked for information about the status and flexibility of the agriculture use agreements. Geist said they are generally three-year agreements with two one-year extensions. The farmers need to know that the lease will be in place before making an investment for that year. He doesn't have the resources to maintain a section of the land and his preference is to keep the agriculture agreements in place for this season or until there is a plan in place.

Park Planner Jackie Rochefort noted that restoration activities are a multi-year process and that being able to sustain a restoration is a very important part of the management effort. She stressed the need for a management plan with a phased approach.

Gabriel said there is an opportunity to have 10 or 12 PhDs from Corvallis volunteer to put that plan together and he thinks it would be a huge cost savings for the City. Emery said staff will be looking to work with a stakeholder group and she expressed appreciation for the team's expertise, interest and time.

Dierwechter left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

VII. MUNICIPAL CODE 5.01 – ALCOHOL IN PARKS

Emery reviewed the staff memo and said the Board is asked to make recommendations on two issues. First, the City currently has designated parks where alcohol is allowed by permit, as well as a long-standing practice of allowing community members to apply for a permit to have alcohol in non-designated parks. During the policy review, staff questioned if there is a need for two processes given that the permits are almost always approved. She requested input on this issue and brief discussion followed.

Motion: Hays moved to recommend that the distinction between designated and non-designated parks be removed from the alcohol permitting ordinance. Sumner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Emery said the second issue is that people who aren't selling but want to consume alcohol in a park are not required to have liability insurance. The City's Risk Manager is recommending that we begin to require that people purchase liability insurance in order to have alcohol for an event, generally a cost of \$75 to \$100. The City already requires those who are selling alcohol to have liability insurance.

In response to inquiries from the Board, Emery affirmed that the change would effectively increase the cost of renting a shelter and that could have an impact on the number of permits issued. There is waiver language in the agreement but the question is whether that would hold up in court. That is the risk identified by the Risk Manager whose job is to move risk away from the City.

In discussion by the Board, comments included that there is no history of a problem and no action brought against the City, that the risk is relatively low, that there is the safeguard of the waiver, and that the requirement could be a financial hardship that discourages people from getting permits. It was noted that the person serving alcohol is the responsible party and it could be more strongly recommended that they obtain the liability insurance for their own protection.

Motion: Soule moved to recommend continuing the policy of not requiring liability insurance for rentals where alcohol is being consumed but not sold, and to recommend that the contract for the rental be amended to highlight the waiver and strongly recommend that renters purchase liability insurance. Rosenberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. BETTY GRIFFITHS MEMORIAL BENCH

Emery drew attention to pictures in packet.

IX. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – None.

X. STAFF REPORTS – None.

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT – None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Ginko

Director's Highlights

November 2015

Administrative Services

- Budget development for FY 16-17 has begun
- Arnold Park playground will be complete as soon as we have a couple of rain free days to glue the fall protection tiles in place
- A Franklin Park neighborhood meeting is scheduled for November 17 to discuss the playground components
- A meeting with Benton County Natural Areas and Parks and the Greenbelt Land Trust is scheduled for November 18 to discuss a regional planning approach for the Bald Hill area

Parks and Natural Areas Services

- Moved a trail away from a tree hazard at Willamette Natural Area
- The seven seasonal park staff are now off work until March
- Staff is winterizing the parks system including restrooms and drinking fountains
- Staff is adding a year-around portable toilet at the riverfront in Shawala point area
- Volunteers continue to assist throughout the park system including the winter pruning of the Avery Rose garden

Recreation Services

- Moved the annual Children's Halloween event from the Library parking garage to the Majestic Theatre. It was well attended with more than 500 people
- The annual Turkey Trot will be held Thanksgiving day and registrations are high
- Swimming lessons have increased attendance Fall term
- Completed the build of a concession trailer that will provide concessions at events, games and at the aquatic center in the summer months.

Corvallis Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Advisory Board

Updated April 2015

*=lead person

Board Goals, Objectives and Action items

BOARD GOALS				
Goal	Action	Time Frame	Interested People	Status
1. Advocate to prioritize improvements to existing neighborhood parks trails and natural areas	1.1 Board members advocate at through their networks 1.2 Prioritize parks, trails and natural areas to improve	2015	Phil Hayes* Staff: Jude Geist Karen Emery	Use Phil's list of past interested people P & R staff provided a list of staff priorities. Phil contacted past interested people and they are no longer interested. Phil, Ralph and Marc completed a trails assessment.
2. Implement efficiencies between city, county, OSU, LBCC and school district by 2015; e.g. sharing equipment and personnel	2.1 Invite key players to brainstorm	February, 2015	Tatiana Dierwechter, Kevin Bogatin Staff: Jude Geist, Steve DeGhetto & Karen Emery	City Council and Benton County have collaboration met on August 11, 2014. P & R staff work regularly with Benton County Parks to share equipment.

BOARD GOALS				
Goal	Action	Time Frame	Interested People	Status
3. Develop a plan to increase funding for Parks and Recreation			Deb Rose,* Staff: James Mellein	<p>Subcommittee has ranked funding ideas.</p> <p>Deb Rose met with the Friends of Parks and Recreation and had related fundraising feedback from Aaron Escobar, a staff member at the OSU Foundation. Escobar recommended that the group focus on creating a thank you process, a database to collect donor information and campaigns targeting specific needs. He felt that once the Friends organization develops broader name recognition and a stable donor base, at that point an annual campaign should be considered.</p> <p>Staff implemented suggestions from PNARB's goal three subcommittee at the Dog Days event. They added new vendors.</p>

BOARD GOALS				
Goal	Action	Time Frame	Interested People	Status
4. Expand public awareness, communication and advocacy for all Parks and Recreation facilities, land and programs.	4.1 Target outreach and develop a marketing program	July 2015	Lynda Wolfenbarger, Jon Soule, Tatiana Dierwechter* Staff: Karen Emery & Steve DeGhetto	Members from the latina community spoke at City Council regarding the value of recreation programs and family assistance (scholarships) Started an internal staff marketing team focusing its first effort on marketing facility rentals P & R staff have developed a marketing plan for department wide facility rentals. This is being implemented Spring, 2015. Puts focus on Indoor and Outdoor as opposed to a specific facility.
5. Develop or expand community relationships and partnerships to pursue joint goals (non-governmental).	5.1 Review current partnerships 5.2 Brainstorm potential partnerships		Deb Rose Staff: Steve DeGhetto & Jude Geist	Staff updated current partnership list Fall 2013 Developed an MOU with County and Greenbelt Land Trust to work cooperatively where property boundaries are shared. Developed the Right Trail website in partnership with Benton County and Greenbelt Land Trust

BOARD GOALS				
Goal	Action	Time Frame	Interested People	Status
6. Develop and expand access and recreational opportunities, such as outdoor education, for underserved youth and families	6.1 Staff inform board what is currently done	February, 2014	Tatiana Dierwechter Lynda Wolfenbarger* Staff: Steve DeGhetto	Family Assistance distribution is at an all time high of serving over 2,000 individuals. P & R staff are planning an expanded outdoor education program for the summer of 2015

7. Explore developing a Parks and Recreation Parks District				
ANNUAL BOARD ACTIVITY				
Goal	Time Frame	Interested People		Status
1 Support the Capital Improvement Plan	June-July	Dierwechter, staff (Karen & Jackie)		PNARB June
2. Hold annual meeting with County and GLT	August	staff (Karen)		

From: [Ralph Alig](#)
To: [Hart, Linda](#); [Anthony Stumbo](#); [Greg Alpert](#); [Janice Rosenberg](#); [Joel Hirsch](#); [Jon-Marc Soule](#); [Kevin Bogatin](#); [Lynda Wolfenbarger](#); [Marc Vomocil](#); [Mark Lindgren \(marklindgren2@comcast.net\)](#); [Phil Hays](#); [Richard Sumner](#); [Simone Frei](#); [Tatiana Dierwechter](#)
Cc: [Teresa Nix \(teresa.nix@comcast.net\)](#); [Geist, Jude](#); [Emery, Karen](#); [Ralph Alig](#)
Subject: Member report from last meeting
Date: Sunday, October 18, 2015 7:42:07 PM
Attachments: [clip_image002.png](#)
[PNARB Subcommittee Dog Recommendations 121714-1.doc](#)

PNARB:

Since we ran out of time at Thursday's meeting, I am providing via email the update I was going to provide during "board member reports" at Thursday's PNARB meeting. My report is on the perennial issue of dog owners in parks, following the recommendations (attached) that our subcommittee put together in December 2014. For new PNARB members, these recommendations were unanimously endorsed by PNARB.

To date, the recommendations have yet to be implemented. Note that #2 pertaining to developing a regional plan for the Bald Hill Natural Area was mentioned by Karen Emery on Thursday as a high priority item, same as it was identified back in December.

A relatively high number of off-leash dogs persists at the Bald Hill Natural Area. In addition, a significant number of retractable leashes are used, where dogs are out well beyond the 6' feet in the regs and that causes discomfort for a number of park users. I have also heard similar reports from other volunteer monitors at MLK Park. Estimates are that approx. half of dogs are off leash on average in leash areas.

In addition to other measures (e.g., better signage), having some sort of enforcement presence and threat of fine or actual fine would seem to be necessary, based on our research of what other cities have done, including Portland's stepped up efforts at increasing and implementing fines this year.

Over the summer, three park users at Bald Hill Natural Area volunteered to me that they had been bit by off-leash dogs. In the last case, the victim chose not to report the case to authorities because he was concerned that the dog would be put down.

Signage is still a high priority. The missing sign on the bridge at Bald Hill NA indicating a leash area has been gone for a while and many people have dogs off leash in the parking lot. In recent months we have been seeing increasingly that horse poop in very large amounts is being left for weeks at a time on the Bald Hill paved path. This can lead to unsafe conditions for parks users, as well as spread invasive weeds. I have attached a photo showing a current example. My recommendation is that horse poop pick-up also be included in new signage.

I have not seen the brochures in recent months that were to be produced by a subgroup of the DOG subcommittee this year. When I last saw the brochure pertaining to coexisting with dogs in parks back in Jan/Feb., as the DOG subcommittee chair I indicated that it needed substantial work and would need to be reviewed by the entire DOG subcommittee. Jude, if you have a copy of the draft brochures, could you please forward me the current version, thanks.

Also note that OSU has had a successful program to involve volunteers in affecting dog owner behavior on College Forests. Below, I have provided an excerpt of a summary of their efforts to reduce dog poop left on trails and related innovative efforts (thanks to Anthony Stumbo for providing the email thread).

In a possible positive development, I would recommend that Parks and Rec follow through with the community police officers about the possibility of helping with dog-related enforcement in parks that we heard at Thursday's meeting.

Ralph Alig

DOG (Dog Owner Group) Subcommittee Chair

What's Next for Pet Waste on Forest Trails?

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The recent "Tails on Trails" campaign ran from September 19th through October 10th. Our goal with this project was to use a sense of levity to raise awareness about the issues and to encourage people to make informed choices regarding their dogs' waste and off-leash behaviors.

A [survey published in 2011](#) showed that 51% of our visitors bring dogs, meaning that 49% of our visitors do not. We love all of the cute, fun pups out there on the trails, which means that it is our responsibility to start conversations around some of the real issues that they sometimes inadvertently bring along... or leave behind... We want everyone (human and canine) to enjoy their experience in a healthy and clean forest.

This campaign really happened through the efforts of a dedicated group of eight volunteers who helped with everything from coming up with messages and how to deliver them, to posting signs and painting piles, to talking with people on the trails about the effort, and leading workparties of volunteers in our grand finale poop cleanup party. On October 10th, 25 volunteers donated their time to pick up orange poop at four locations on the forest equaling 100 hours of service! Thank you so much for your service, especially in such a "unique" job.

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Volunteers at Calloway Creek on October 10th.

The efforts of these volunteers resulted in 231 pounds of excrement being removed from the forest. The distribution was: Oak Creek (98#), 540/Calloway Creek (#36), Intensive Management/Arboretum (55#), and Lewisburg Saddle (#42). This doesn't represent all the poop, as we only focused on the "hot spots" for this issue. It also doesn't include all of the poop that was picked up by anonymous "trail angels" before the work party.

At Oak Creek in particular, there were many locations that had been originally spraypainted orange where the poop was missing - some kind soul spent their own time to help out. We know that there are several of you out there and appreciate your help!

Part of this project included the placement of additional bag dispensers and bins to make it easier for folks to dispose of waste. Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club donated the new dispenser and bin located at Lewisburg Saddle (THANK YOU!). Another new dispenser and bin was installed near the 540 Gate and Calloway Creek Trail, and additional bins were placed several hundred feet in on both the Intensive Management and Homestead Trails.

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Off-leash role model and volunteer disposes of poop in the new receptacle at Calloway Creek.

This effort certainly did draw a lot of attention. Between Facebook posts, e-mails, phone calls and personal conversations, a great deal of feedback was received, including thank yous, questions about the campaign, concerns

about horse manure and the spraypaint, and (our favorite) ideas on how we can make it easier for people to pick up after their pups. [The Gazette-Times did an article on the effort](#), which got 20 comments and was picked up by the Associated Press. This article featured our local veterinarian, trail dog walker, and volunteer extraordinaire Sharon Forster-Blouin. The article has now been reprinted in 31 publications across the US, showing how universal of an issue this is in public spaces. Our intention was to start a conversation around the issue, and that was certainly accomplished!

So what's next now that the trails are clean and the issue is in the forefront of people's minds?

Thanks to the volunteer work party this weekend, the trails should now look like they did before the campaign started in September, only cleaner! We are still tracking down the last of the orange paint to pick up, so please let us know if you see any that we missed.

We've received some additional ideas of locations where bins would be useful, and are considering those along with our internal constraints regarding the human-power needed to service them. If you have any ideas, please send them along!

We will be having a meeting with our group of volunteers who helped design this campaign to review how it went and come up with ideas for moving forward. In the meantime, we will be playing a bit of a waiting game to see how effective the project was at reducing pet waste on the trails.

One thing we really want to avoid is the perception that our volunteers are providing a janitorial service in the woods. We will continue to expect people to pick up after their own pets, and will only ask for help from our volunteers if the "load" becomes a large problem again.

The vision that we have for our trails is that they look and smell beautiful, and are safe and fun places for pets and humans to enjoy the natural world. Our hopes are that visitors who bring dogs out onto the forest will consider their own dogs as the role model for responsible off-leash behavior and will hold themselves to a high standard in picking up their pets' waste.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this happen, to all of the community members who provided valuable feedback and ideas, and to everyone who used the trails during this time for your sense of humor, ability to engage, and tolerance of orange poop.

Best,

Ryan Brown
Recreation and Engagement Program Manager
OSU Research Forests

(541) 737-6702

<http://cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

APRIL STOOLS DAY!



1st Week of April
5:30 p.m.



It's a Poop Pick-Up "Tail"-Gate Party!
Sponsored by WDOG
"Willamette Dogs Owners Group"

Please come and join in on the fun.
We'll have hot dogs & lemonade for everyone.
Feel free to bring food to share.

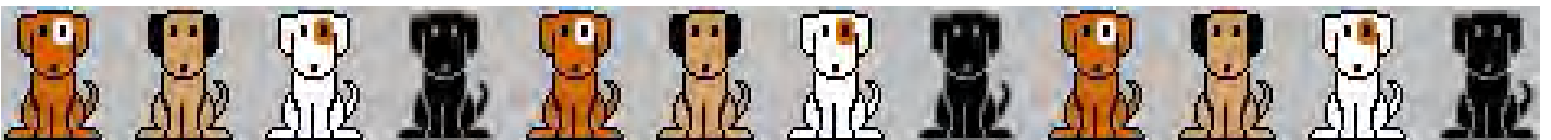
The Party will be held in the Kiosk Area
at the north end of the Crystal Lake Sports Fields.

Reminder: Dogs always need to be on-leash
in the Parking Lot and on the multi-modal path
while the sports fields are in use.

FYI - Corvallis Little League's Opening Day is Saturday - April 4th.
WDOG wants to make sure that the kids
have clean, safe fields to play.
The Little League folks have been very supportive
of WDOG.

Let's do our best to make the mixed-use at Willamette Park
& Crystal Lake Sports Complex
a continued success for all of us.

If you have questions or would like to help with April Stools Day,
Please email wdog@googlegroups.com or nanceWDOG@gmail.com.



Parks and Recreation Department/General Fund

Mission: Corvallis Parks and Recreation preserves and creates a community heritage by providing places and programs designed to enhance the quality of life.

Vision: Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department will play a pivotal role in maintaining a high standard of livability in our community. We will enhance the quality of life for residents with our green network of attractive, well managed parks, trails, and natural areas and create a premier destination for visitors.

Programs and services offered by the Department will be excellent in terms of value and quality. We will invite the residents of Corvallis to make healthy, sustainable choices by offering a variety of recreational and wellness activities, facilities, volunteer opportunities, and educational programs.

Corvallis residents and visitors will experience outstanding customer service and will partner with Parks and Recreation professionals. The community will experience a sense of ownership of their parks. People of all ages, abilities and incomes will enjoy attractive and accessible facilities and an exceptionally diverse selection of innovative and fun recreational opportunities.

What we do:

Parks and Recreation supports an environmentally-aware community with distinctive natural areas, protected habitats, parks and outdoor recreation. We provide enriching recreational opportunities, celebrating the talents and culture of people who live here. We are committed to support children, individuals and families through programs and places. We support the definition of home: a good place for all kinds of people to live and to lead healthy, happy, productive lives...Corvallis 2020 Vision Statement.

The National Citizen Survey 2015, Corvallis Livability Report, rated Corvallis natural areas higher than the National benchmark. Additionally, residents gave natural areas, open space, City parks, recreation programs, and community centers a good or excellent rating.

Administration

Staff in the Administration work group provides internal leadership, strategic planning, staff recruitment and development, policies and procedures and collaborates with other governments and partners. This group is also responsible for the development and management of the Department budget, technology plan, facility maintenance plan, accounting, payroll, contracts and agreements, and provides administrative services for recreation programs and facilities including registration, reservations and permits. The Administration work group supports the

Family Assistance Program that bridges economic barriers to participation in programs for people with low incomes. This program served 2,475 people last year.

Administration supports two Advisory Boards. The Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Advisory Board advise City Council and the Department on items such as policy, strategic planning, financing alternatives, and acquisition. The Arts and Culture Advisory Board advises City Council on all matters related to arts and culture such as a comprehensive vision and strategic plan, outreach to residents and advocacy.

Parks and Natural Areas Division

This group is responsible for the Parks and Natural Area infrastructure system. Areas of focus include:

Developed Parks: Manages 600 acres, 56 sports fields and courts, 28 playgrounds, 25 restrooms, 14 shelters, 3 community rooms, beautification areas, fenced dog park, BMX track, and a skate park.

Natural Areas: Manages 1,200 acres of Natural areas and 22 miles of trails. Perform restoration and stewardship.

Urban Forest Program: Manages 13,000 street trees and trees in Parks and Natural Areas. Implements the Urban Forest Management Plan. Manages the sustainability initiative fee that funds hazard tree removal and young tree pruning in the right-of-way.

Heritage Tree Program: Recognizes and celebrates designated trees or groves of trees that have significance to our community, to inspire and foster appreciation for the contribution that these trees make to the natural beauty and legacy of our community and to protect them for future generations.

Neighborhoods Program: This program partners with neighbors to plant and care for new trees in the right-of-way.

Riverfront Fountain: Operates from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Management is labor intensive as it is considered a “pool”. Consequently, chlorine levels have to be tested daily. Aquatic Center staff provides the maintenance and chemical testing of the Fountain.

Park Facility Maintenance and Repair: Majestic Theatre, Art Center, Parks Administration Building, Senior Center, Tunison Community Room, Walnut Community Room, Osborn Aquatic Center, Riverfront Fountain, Avery House, Corl House, Berg Building, Historic Gaylord House, Historic Owen’s House and Barn, 10 restroom buildings, 14 shelters, 4 Parks Operations Buildings.



Parks Volunteer Program and Memorials: Manages the volunteer program and adopt-a-park program with 6,800 people serving 2,720 hours annually. Volunteers help build and maintain trails, plant trees, remove invasive species, spread mulch, and more. Works with the public who wish to donate a park related item such as a tree or bench in memory of a loved one.

Youth Parks Corps Program: Connects youth, ages 14-16 to the outdoors through an introduction to the work force. They learn first-time job skills, how to work as a team, responsibility, while improving trails, natural areas and parks.

Illegal Camp Site Clean Up: Illegal Camp cleanup frequencies currently do not meet minimum standards. Illegal camping in parks has been increasing over the past decade requiring increased staffing hours and dumping fees.

Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry Department Advisory Committee: Advises the Department in the area of the urban forest & beautification areas.

Recreation Division

General Recreation: Includes a wide range of recreation programming to benefit the community. It includes programs such as Youth Volunteer Corps, youth outdoor education, recreational sports, summer enrichment camps, adult life-long learning courses, and community events such as the Penny Carnival, Family Fun Night, and music in the parks.

Positive outcomes of general recreation programming include healthy lifestyles, strengthening communities through engagement, creating social bonds through activities, and programming which reinforces a sense of place for the community.

Healthy lifestyles and obesity prevention has been a National trend for the last decade. We have stayed in the forefront and have been recognized as a leader with our work with “We Can,” “Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities” and “Healthy Eating Active Living “(HEAL) campaigns.

General Recreation is a benefit driven program that:

- Improves community involvement through volunteerism;
- Engages at-risk youth in positive action based programs and deters negative behaviors;
- Improves health, self esteem, and quality of life;
- Diminishes risk of chronic disease;
- Promotes stewardship;
- Builds cultural diversity;
- Supports individuals with disabilities; and
- Build relationships within the community.

Chintimini Senior and Community Center: Provides recreation, educational and social opportunities, and many services for those 50+. The Center provides a vibrant volunteer program that keeps people involved in the community. The Chintimini Senior & Community Center is a growing, dynamic organization poised to meet the evolving needs of the 50+ population of today and tomorrow. The Senior and Community Center had more than 26,000 visits, over 1,000 programs and almost 6,000 volunteer hours.

Osborn Aquatic Center: Home to one of the more highly utilized facilities per capita in the State, Osborn Aquatic Center includes over 40,000 square feet of facility space equipped with four pools, including an Olympic sized 50 Meter Swimming Pool, a Therapy Pool, an Outdoor Water Park and two multipurpose rooms. The Center provides supervised recreation, fitness, and educational opportunities for thousands of community members. The Center features a Rope Swing, Diving Boards, Lap Swim Lanes, Basketball Hoop, a three story Water Slide, a

Water Channel and several splash features such as water cannons, geysers, tumble buckets and more.

The Aquatic Center helps improve community health and quality of life through providing water safety lessons, special events, therapeutic and fitness programs and other life-long wellness opportunities. Each year, over 8,000 registered children are taught to swim in water safety education classes. Adults participate in fitness and therapy classes such as Hydro Hip Hop, Aqua Jogging, Arthritis Rehab, Stroke Rehab, and classes specifically designed to help those with Parkinson's, Osteoporosis, and ALS.

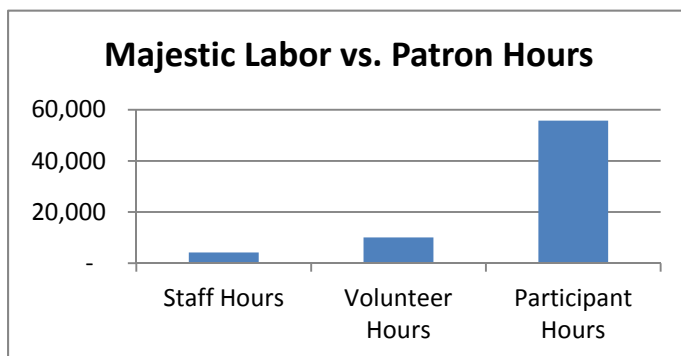
The Aquatic Center is a community hub which helps contribute to community engagement in special events such as Family Movie Swim, Polar Bear Swim, April Pools Day, Dog Day, and the Corvallis Turkey Trot.

The Center also rents the pools and classrooms to the public and businesses and is called "home" by over 10 teams and clubs. Through hosting large regional and State wide tournaments and events, the Center helps bring in over \$1.2 million of outside dollars being spent in our local community businesses through hotel registration, fuel, and meals in local restaurants.

The Aquatic Center had more than 204,000 visits, 8,865 registered children how to swim and held 1,113 programs with 48,270 registrations on an annual average. Memberships at the Aquatic Center have quadrupled in the last 5 years.

Majestic Theatre: The Majestic Theatre is the cultural embodiment of Parks and Recreation's commitment to enhancing community livability. By acting as a producer and venue for community talents, passions, and creative dreams, the Majestic is able to simultaneously create affordable weekly entertainment to improve quality of life and give local performers a high quality space in which to realize their creative potential.

For less than \$2 staff dollars per hour of participation, the Majestic has brought quality performing arts events to over 14,600 members of our community in the first six months of operations.



Demands for Service

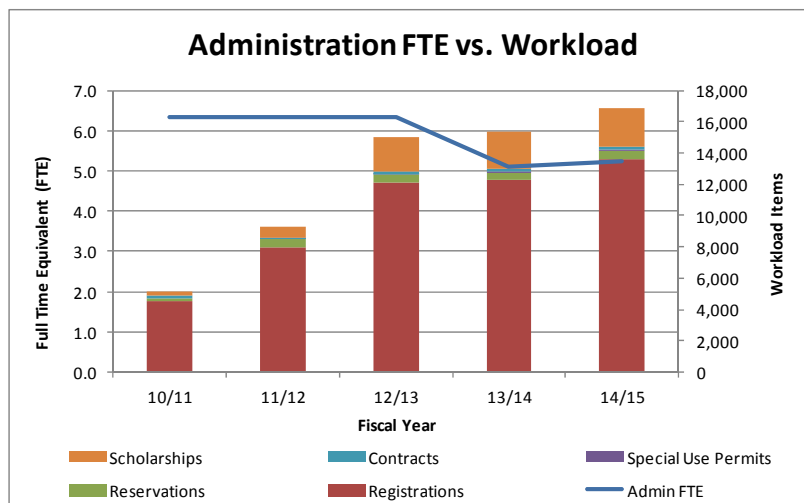
Administration and Recreation

Each registration, family assistance application and contract is an increased demand for Administration staff. Although Administration staff has been reduced by 21%, the service demand has increased by 70% as shown in this graph. People registering for programs have increased by 67% since FY 10-11.

Staff raised prices of programs in FY 11-12 and even through the economic downturn, residents have continued to afford life enriching activities. Additionally, as we raised prices, we promoted the family assistance program to lessen economics as a barrier to participate. The promotion was successful with an increase of 87%.

A contract is required for all services performed for the City. Staff has produced 42% more contracts than in FY 10-11.

Staff eliminated the Administration Supervisor position three years ago during budget reductions. The Assistant Director currently serves as both the Administration Supervisor and the Recreation Division Supervisor. The following chart demonstrates the demands for service for the Administration and Recreation staff.



Illegal Camping Clean-Up

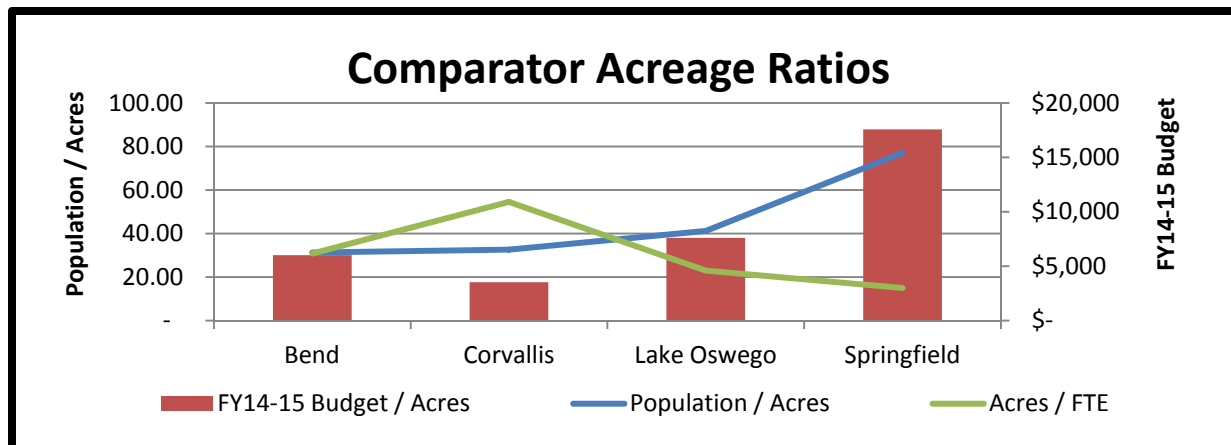


Many of the illegal camp sites have extensive litter and garbage as well as human waste. Used and unused hypodermic needles are often found during camp cleanups. Illegal camping in parks has been increasing over the past decade requiring increased staffing hours and dumping fees. Parks calls in illegal camps based on customer complaints and staff observations of hazardous conditions. Parks staff is projected to spend 400 hours cleaning up over 80 illegal camp sites in 2015. The current resources available for camp cleanup are not enough to meet community

expectations or to maintain safe and clean parks.

Park Use

As you can see in the chart below, Corvallis has more park acres, with less budget and staff support, than the comparator cities. The projected growth in population for the next 5 years shouldn't greatly impact the parks system. However, the growth in OSU students has significantly impacted parks in the OSU area. This means increased use of restrooms, impact on turf, more people on trails and more garbage. According to the National Citizen Survey 2015, 94% of people in Corvallis visited a park, which is higher than the National benchmark.



Level of Service

Parks and Natural Areas

Parks and Natural Areas are assigned a level of service (LOS) based on the criteria set by the National Operational Guidelines for Grounds Maintenance. There are six levels, 1 being state of the art, high quality, diverse landscapes to 6 being little to no management. With current staffing levels we are not able to meet LOS standards. Level 1 parks have dropped to level 2, and level 2 parks have dropped to level 3. For example, Riverfront Commemorative Park used to have 80 hours a week of staff time, now it has 20 hours a week due to staff reduction.

To meet budget requirements over the past few years, the Parks Division staff levels have been reduced by eliminating the Natural Resource position, (1 FTE 12 months a year), park maintenance, (4 seasonal positions 8 months a year) and park maintenance support (2 casual staff 6 months a year). This fiscal year, we cut .5 FTE from the Recreation budget and transferred the FTE to the Parks Division in attempt to restore some basic levels of service to some parks.

In addition to cutting staff, we also eliminated contracted maintenance service. That contract specifically maintained Central Park, Little Fields Park, beautification areas and the Avery Park Rose Garden. There are 14 acres of beautification areas that are currently maintained at a minimal level. We largely depend on volunteers to maintain the Rose Garden, which fluctuates depending on volunteer availability.

The National standard for LOS for number of park acres per population is 10 acres per 1,000. Corvallis currently has 30.67 acres per 1,000, exceeding National standards.

Natural Areas, with the exception of 3 properties, have dropped to level 6 due to cutting the Natural Area Resources operations specialist position. We currently have no staff dedicated to ongoing management of Natural Areas. The 3 properties that are actively being restored are the result of agreements with Federal and State agencies at the time of acquisition and grant funding.

How we do it:

Parks and Recreation Department Budget-Combined

The Parks and Recreation Department General Fund currently recovers 49% of its operating cost through non-property tax revenue. Revenue is comprised mainly by Charges for Service (53%), 2013 Levy (24%), Grants and Donations (19%) and Park Rental Permits (4%).

Parks and Recreation staff initiated a Cost Recovery Model, including an allocation philosophy and policy which was adopted by City Council in 2012. At that time, the Department recovered approximately 28% of its operating cost through non-property tax revenue. As the table below demonstrates, revenues have increased largely through higher program fees, successful grant writing and the 2013 levy.

*The tables below include the Majestic Theatre in FY 15-16.

Parks & Recreation Department - Revenue			
	FY 05-06 Actual	FY 10-11 Actual	FY 15-16 Budget
2013 Levy	\$0	\$0	\$838,710
Licenses, Fees, Permits	\$53,064	\$90,267	\$147,890
Charges for Service	\$1,464,656	\$1,440,957	\$1,840,010
Intergovernmental	\$49,991	\$7,840	\$117,400
Fines and Forfeitures	\$15	\$94	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$93,994	\$96,695	\$556,830
Total	\$1,661,721	\$1,635,853	\$3,501,140

Employee wages and benefits represent the largest cost at nearly 58% of the budget. The cost of personnel in FY 15-16 is \$502,290 higher than FY 09-10 with 6.85 less staff which demonstrates the impact of negotiated benefits and step increases and PERS rate impacts.

Parks & Recreation Department – Expenses			
	FY 05-06 Actual	FY 10-11 Actual	FY 15-16 Budget
Personnel Services	\$3,253,652	\$3,672,139	\$4,129,140
Materials and Services	\$2,287,711	\$2,070,898	\$2,952,490
Capital Outlay	\$79,013	\$21,814	\$25,000
Total	\$5,620,376	\$5,764,852	\$7,106,630
FTE	28.430	36.315	33.790

FTE per 1,000 Population	0.535	0.666	0.598
<u>Efficiencies</u>			

- The Department developed a cost recovery methodology and philosophy, adopted by City Council in 2012. Cost Recovery is the basis for the degree to which the operational and maintenance costs of service provision are financially supported by user fees and/or other applicable funding mechanisms such as grants, partnerships, donations, sponsorships, volunteers, or other alternative funding sources. Since its implementation, we have increased revenue by 87%;
- The Family Assistance Program used to be funded through General Fund dollars. A reserve was developed funded through a 7% increase in program fees;
- The Sustainability Initiative Fee (urban forestry fee) funds structural pruning for young trees and removal of hazard trees in the ROW;
- Passage of the operating levy to support the aquatic and senior centers reduced General Fund reliance by approximately \$840,000;
- Initiated the development of the Friends of Parks and Recreation as a method to secure alternative revenue;
- Increased grant funding for CIP;
- Utilize over 22,000 volunteer hours annually -10.5 FTE;
- Implemented electronic program registration to increase staff efficiencies;
- Closed the administration office two mornings a week to provide staff uninterrupted time;
- Cut programs that didn't meet cost recovery and expanded programs that were exceeding cost recovery goals;
- Upgraded heating systems at the Aquatic Center for energy savings;
- Shared an employee with Benton County Health Department during the Healthy Kids Healthy Communities Campaign;
- Share equipment with Benton County Parks and OSU College of Forestry;
- Initiated Game Day parking in Avery park to increase Department revenues;
- Reduced irrigation in some parks to reduce mowing;
- Contract out vehicle maintenance & tree work;
- Contract out farm services to maintain natural areas until they can be restored; and
- Partner with other agencies to provide health and wellness programs such as meals for summer day camps and summer aquatic center programs, and Linus Pauling Little Sprouts Program.

As noted above, Administration staff cannot keep up with the level of demand. However, staff is considering closing the Avery Administration office to the public and moving the Administrative staff to the Senior Center. Combining the Senior Center administration staff of 1.5 with the 2 administration staff at the Avery office would provide better customer service and solve coverage issues. This could occur after the Senior Center remodel project is completed in the future. Closing the office to the public would also allow Parks staff to move into the Avery office solving the need to rehabilitate Parks current office space.

Additionally, we investigated contracting out landscape maintenance and spraying, however it was not cost effective.

Unmet Needs

Excluding the 2.0 FTE for Majestic Theatre, the Department has reduced FTE by nearly 18% since FY 09-10.

Parks Division

To meet the basic LOS for Parks, Natural Areas and Urban Forest, staff estimates that \$264,370 would be needed. This would provide the staffing levels that could meet the standards for maintenance set in the Department's Parks Sustainable Operations Plan. The following staffing levels and contracted services are required:

Staff Positions	FTE	Estimated Cost
Natural Area Operations Specialist	1.00	\$83,370
Seasonal Turf, irrigation, rough mowing	1.34	\$67,600
Landscape Casual	Hourly 6 months	\$12,300
Sanitation Casual	Hourly 6 months	\$12,300
Trails	.67	\$33,800
Total		\$209,370

Contracted Services	Estimated Cost
Landscape	\$20,000
Rough mowing	\$15,000
Natural Areas	\$20,000
Total	\$55,000

Total Annual Cost to meet basic LOS for staffing costs in the Parks Division is \$264,370.

Department-wide Deferred Maintenance

As the population has increased so has park usage. As stated earlier, 94% of Corvallis residents visit a park. Couple that with the impact of illegal camping and budget reductions that resulted in fewer staff and reduced contract services for landscape maintenance and casual labor, the result is deferred maintenance.



Staff has mothballed the centralized irrigation control system due to inadequate staffing levels and the need for current operating software. There is 1 FTE assigned to turf mowing, management of irrigation systems and rough mowing. There is 1.8 staff assigned to maintaining system-wide landscape beds.

There is significant deferred maintenance of current systems at Osborn Aquatic Center, such as Otter Beach playground equipment replacement; the roof and roof grid support structure repair or replacement, Otter Beach Myrtha liner, upgrade to the filtration system, 50 meter pool replaster, and more. Many of these projects will require a funding source outside of the General Fund.

Staff prioritizes maintenance projects through an annual update of the facilities plan. Due to budget reductions, projects have been deferred. These range from replacing equipment at Otter Beach, Energy Management System at the Senior Center and Parks facilities and trails. Deferring maintenance too long can result in losing the asset.



Materials & Supplies	Estimated Cost
Non-ADA Deferred Maintenance Projects- Annual	\$220,000

Contract Services	Estimated Cost
Maintenance Projects- Annual	\$100,000

ADA Compliance Projects: There is over \$450,000 in identified ADA projects to bring the parks system into compliance. The majority are related to playground ADA access.

Project	Estimated Cost
ADA Compliance Projects- Annual	\$50,000 per year (for 9 years)

Fleet

Staff has not contributed to the vehicle reserve fund for vehicle replacement since FY 13-14.

Vehicle Reserve Fund annual contribution	\$40,000
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Total Annual Cost to fund deferred maintenance is \$410,000.

Youth Park Corps

We reduced the Youth Park Corps program by 50% as a budget reduction which has impacted our ability to maintain the 18 miles of unpaved trails. This program provides first-time job training for youth ages 14-16. The cost to restore this service is approximately \$24,000 annually.

Staff Position	FTE	Estimated Cost
YPC Leader & 5 youth positions	Paid hourly & summer only	\$19,000
Supplies		\$5,000
Total		\$24,000

Total Annual Cost to fund Parks Division staffing, deferred maintenance and Youth Park Corps is \$698,370.

Urban Forestry Program

The Urban Forestry Management Plan identifies a broad range of objectives and action steps that are intended to guide Corvallis toward the growth and management of a healthy, sustainable urban forest. The Plan calls for an Outreach and Education Program which would provide support and education to private property owners who are responsible for the vast majority of the city's trees. It would reach new volunteers for the Neighborwoods program and tree planting efforts. The Department is currently understaffed to provide proactive tree care and underfunded to contract out proactive pruning services. Currently hazard tree removal and young tree structural pruning is funded through the Sustainable Initiative Fee.

Staff Position	FTE	Estimated Cost
Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator	1.00	\$83,370
Parks Maintenance Technician	1.34	\$67,600

Contract Services	Estimated Cost
Pruning	\$240,000

Equipment	
Arial Lift Truck	\$70,000

Total Annual Cost to implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan is \$460,970.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

The 2013 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified that \$135 million was required to fund CIP projects. CIP funding is currently reliant on grants, donations and SDC's, if eligible. Grants typically require match funding of which Parks and Recreation no longer funds. This would fund planned projects as well as could carry over a balance to a reserve to plan for projects that exceed \$500,000.

Total Annual Cost to implement a portion of CIP is \$500,000.

Recreation Division Staffing Levels

The Recreation Division cut .5 FTE of a Recreation Coordinator in FY 14-15. The work load was reassigned and .5 FTE was redistributed department-wide to meet current service demands. After a season of restructuring, it became evident that the Recreation Division would benefit with 1.0 FTE recreation coordinator position to fill the unmet needs.

There are two primary programming areas with unmet staffing and growing community requests: community gardens and outdoor education. The coordination of community gardens and outdoor education could be accomplished with .5 FTE assigned to each program areas.

Staff Position	FTE	Estimated Cost
Recreation Coordinator- Annual	1.00	\$83,370

In summary, Parks and Recreation could meet Parks LOS and deferred maintenance obligations, the Urban Forestry Program objectives, a portion of CIP projects and the Recreation program demand for an annual budget increase of \$1,742,710.

Alternatives for improvements:

Technology

An Asset Management System for the parks division would have efficiencies, however additional staffing is required to enter and update the data. Costs for this project have not been developed yet.

Alternative Funding

Regional Department

- City Council directed staff to explore the feasibility of a Parks and Recreation Special District. Staff completed this study which showed that a District is feasible and would stabilize funding for Parks and Recreation services. However, due to the impact of potential compression, City Council did not approve this direction.
- City Council could direct staff to explore combining Corvallis Parks and Recreation with Benton County Natural Areas and Parks. Benton County currently does not provide recreation services and much of rural Benton County is underserved. There would likely be efficiencies administratively, but an increase in cost to expand recreation services.
- City Council could explore with Benton County, becoming a Parks and Recreation Service District, structured similarly to the Library. This would expand services to underserved areas although there would likely not be cost savings.

New Fee for Parks Division Services

City Council could consider treating the Parks Division services as an infrastructure and set a fee accordingly. Generally, this concept would begin to treat the Park system as an infrastructure system like the water, wastewater, and storm water systems, with a monthly fee that is set to cover the cost of operations, maintenance, land acquisition, and infrastructure improvements for the parks system. This would then allow the property tax monies currently going into Park operations and maintenance to be available for other services.

Cost Recovery Policy Changes

As mentioned under efficiencies, the Department developed and implemented a Cost Recovery policy adopted by City Council in January 2012. The policy was developed through extensive public participation via survey, work sessions and focus groups. Program fees have been adjusted and many alternative revenue sources have been implemented. Staff could consider new participant fees, such as a surcharge, which would be outside of the policy direction, but the risk would be exceeding market price resulting in a loss of participants and actually reducing cost recovery. This would require vetting through public process.

Pursue a General Obligation Bond Issue

Similar to selling park land, this would produce one-time money which would not assist with on-going operations and maintenance costs. However, it could allow for some significant development of parks and more specifically facilities in parks that may allow higher user fees for more amenities.

Senior center honors veterans with mural



NOVEMBER 06, 2015 6:02 PM • [BENNETT HALL CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES](#)

With Veterans Day approaching, the Chintimini Senior & Community Center wanted to honor local members of the armed forces.

Audrey Perkins, who handles special events for the city-owned facility in Chintimini Park, was looking for a way to involve the broader community, especially young people. Then she hit on the idea of an art project.

Perkins contacted Stephanie Rakos, the faculty adviser to the Corvallis High School Art Club, and told her what she had in mind.

The result is “Community for Heroes,” a 4-foot-by-9-foot mural painted over the past two weeks by seven student artists.

“They finished it yesterday,” Perkins said on Friday. “They were so excited.”

The painting incorporates both text and images into its free-flowing design: a female soldier holding a small child in her arms as she leaves for or returns from a deployment; three uniformed service members with their arms around each other in a comradely pose; a chain of people, standing arm in arm, circling the globe; an American flag that stretches out into a banner bearing the words “sacrifice – bravery – courage”; and a meditation on the nature of heroism that reads, “A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.”

And above it all, a simple expression of gratitude for service rendered and sacrifice made: “Thank you!”

By Friday afternoon the painting was hanging in the lobby of the senior center, where it will greet visitors young and old.

A number of veterans come to the center regularly, and Perkins said she hopes they “will feel welcome and appreciated.”

But she also wants to convey a similar message to other area residents.

“We’re actually called the Chintimini Senior & Community Center,” she explained. “We’re trying to get the community to understand that we’re here for the whole community, not just seniors.”

PreservationWORKS

P.O. Box T

Corvallis, Oregon 97339

Preserving the past to enrich the future

November 12, 2015

Linn-Benton Community College
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW
Albany, Oregon 97321

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Washington School (The Benton Center) – including its athletic fields – is listed in the Corvallis Register of Historic Landmarks and Districts. As a locally Designated Historic Resource, any alteration to this property requires a public hearing by the City's Historic Resources Commission (HRC).

As a Certified Local Government, the HRC's authority is delegated from the state and federal governments to evaluate changes to Designated Historic Resources. A historic preservation permit application must be submitted, reviewed and acted upon under Chapter 2.9, the Historic Preservation Provisions of Corvallis' Land Development Code. Among other activities, the LDC's Chapter 2.9 is directed to: *encourage, effect, and accomplish the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of historic resources, that represent or reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history.* Washington School is particularly significant as one of the oldest existing Corvallis school buildings that continues to serve its original educational function.

Portland architect, Lee Thomas designed the 1923 Classical Revival Washington School, and contractor, L.N. Traver, built the original classrooms. Since September 1924, students and children of all ages continue to enjoy the original athletic fields northeast of the school building.

As the local preservation educational organization, PreservationWORKS is dedicated to keeping places that matter in Corvallis and Benton County for future generations. Washington School and its athletic fields tell a unique story, and replacing the fields with a parking lot is an unacceptable change for this historic asset. Our membership voted at our most recent meeting to strongly urge you to:

- Carefully evaluate the Benton Center's short and long term needs,
- Develop a thorough long-range plan for the institution,
- Conduct a study of current and projected parking needs, and
- Explore alternatives that do not compromise this revered historic icon.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,
PreservationWORKS

BA Beierle
President